

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE DHUN NA nGALL

Oifig Riarthóir na
gCruinnithe
Áras na Chontae
Leifear

12th Deireadh Fómhair

FOGRA CRUINNITHE

Beidh Cruinniú Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall, a bhí ar athró ó 27 Meán Fómhair ag dul ar aghaidh Dé Luain, 18 Deireadh Fómhair 2004, ag **10.00 ag Arás an Chontae, Leifear**

DO GACH BHALL DEN CHOMHAIRLE

A Chara

Iarrtar ort bheith i lathair ag an gcruinniú seo den Chomhairle. Ta Clar an Cruinnithe le seo.

Beidh Clar Orduithe an Bhainisteora Contae le feiceal ag an gcruinniú.

Mise, le meas

A. MacSuibhne

Riarthóir Cruinniú (RÚNAI CONTAE)

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Office of
Meetings
Administrator
County House
Lifford

12th October, 2004

NOTICE OF MEETING

The Meeting of Donegal County Council, adjourned from 27th September, 2004 will be held on Monday 18th October, 2004, at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford.

TO EACH MEMBER OF DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend this meeting of the Council. The Agenda is attached.

Yours sincerely

E. Sweeney

Meetings Administrator

AGENDA

(Please note that all items have retained their original numbers so as to correspond with reports already issued for the September Meeting.)

6. **Planning & Economic Development Programme**
 - (b) Review of the County Donegal Development Plan- Fixing of dates for Members Working Group Meetings.

7. **Roads & Transportation Programme**
 - (a) To make the Donegal County Council (Parking Places)Bye-laws 2004.
 - (b) To make the Donegal County Council (Donegal Town Car Park) Bye – Laws 2004.

8. **Financial Programme**

To approve the final amended expenditure figures for 2003, as contained in the Draft (Unaudited) Annual Financial Statement 2003. (Copies already circulated)

9. **Corporate & Procedural Programme**
 - (a) To approve the implementation of the revised pay scales for Local Authority Staff as sanctioned by the Department of the Environment , Heritage and Local Government.

 - (b) Election of Members to the Following Committees/Bodies
 - County Committee Rural Water Monitoring
 - Airport Committee
 - Place Names Committee
 - Donegal Peace II Taskforce
 - Donegal Heritage Forum

 - (c) To adopt Scheme for the establishment and operation of Strategic Policy Committees 2004-2009.

10. **Conferences**

- (a) REMINDER –Induction Seminars for newly elected members to be held at various locations from 08th October – 11th December 2004.
- (b) Laois County Council –Portlaoise Convention to be held on 20th &21st October, 2004 in the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise.
- (c) Eco Business – National Environment Conference to be held on 20th & 21st October, 2004 in Dundalk, County Louth

11. **Cathaoirleach's Business**

12. **Manager's Report**

MOTIONS

- (L) Local
- (O) Other
- (C) County

Motion in the name of Clr. E. Bonner referred from Adjourned Meeting of Donegal County Council held on 06th September, 2004:-

13. **Water, Environment & Emergency Services**
“That Donegal County Council organise a daily clean up at bottle banks and rubbish bins at both town streets and beaches especially during the tourist season.” (C)

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

14. **Clr. T. Pringle**
“That Donegal County Council apply to the NRA for the same type of funding as was allocated to Bruckless on the N56 for the Frosses Junction to the Milltown Bar to improve this dangerous stretch of road.” (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Housing

15. **Clr. A. Bonner**
“That the Council examines the ERG and DPG grants in relation to the maximum level of grant for the various elements of work e.g. maximum roof grant –€4,000, heating €1,500 etc.” (C)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

16. Clr. D. Alcorn
“That this Council through our Community Enterprise Section, in conjunction with Forbairt na Rosann, Dungloe, evaluate the feasibility of providing a much needed cinema in Dungloe, as part of the proposed “Dungloe Foreshore Plan.” (L)
17. Clr. T. Slowey
“That this Council update the Task Force Report on unemployment to reflect the present position.”(C)
18. Clr. E. Bonner
“That the Community & Enterprise Section of Donegal County Council and other officials be active in promoting and making applications to Interreg III and also liase with members in relation to Council led applications through Cross Border Groups.” (C)
19. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill
“I call on Donegal County Council to make the Willow Cottage site in Dunfanaghy available for the planned provision of a childcare facility in the village.” (L)

Roads & Transportation

20. Clr. Pdraig Doherty
“That Donegal County Council will study the ongoing problems at Magheroarty Harbour silting and make proposals as to how the situation can be improved.” (L)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

21. Clr. F. Conaghan
“That this Council would explore the possibility of providing a permanent library service in the Newtowncunningham area.” (L)

22. Clr. B. McGuinness
“That this Council provides €100,000 for the development, upgrade and maintenance of the Inishowen 100 tourist route.” (L)

Planning & Economic Development

23. Clr. M. McDonald
“That this Council calls for a variation of the county development plan in order to change the lands along side the shore walk from Eugene’s Hall, Moville to Lafferty’s Lane, Glenburney from Category 1 to Category 3 in order to protect the amenities in that area from inappropriate developments.” (L)

Roads & Transportation

24. Clr. P. MacLochlainn
“That as Donegal County Council has already endorsed the recent Donegal Marina Development Strategy, which highlighted Fahan Marina as a flagship marina project in the county, this Council reaffirms without equivocation that Fahan Marina is a project worthy of the support of any relevant funding agency or Government Department, without prejudice to other applicants.” (L)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Community Cultural & Enterprise

25. Clr. T. McDaid
“That this Council calls on the Government to urgently address the need to stop the continuing haemorrhaging of job losses in Donegal in light of 5,000 job losses in the county in the past eight years and in the impending job losses in Unifi and Fruit of the Loom.” (C)

Roads & Transportation

26. Clr. J. Harte
“That this Council call on the NRA to set a date for the completion of the new Manor to Lifford road.” (L)

27. Clr. G. Crawford
“That this Council discuss whatever plans it may have to make safe traffic calming stands and bollards many of which have become dangerous.” (C)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

28. Clr. I. McGarvey
“That this Council discuss and delegate authority to Electoral Area Meetings that they would have decision making functions in relation to matters that affect their area.” (C)

QUESTIONS

(L) Local
(O) Other
(C) County

DONEGAL ELECTORAL AREA

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

29. Clr. B. Byrne
“What plans has this Council to improve the Glencolumbkille Fire Station in line with other improvements to Fire Stations throughout the county?” (L)
30. Clr. B. Byrne
“Can the Council make provision for recycling facilities at Kilcar, as currently no such facilities exist there?” (L)
31. Clr. T. Pringle
“How much of the Group Water Scheme Block Capital Grant has been drawn down to date?” (C)
32. Clr. S. McEniff
“What is the up to date position re: Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme?” (L)

Community, Cultural & Enterprise

33. Clr. T. Pringle
“Will the Director of Community & Enterprise meet with the group of Rathmullan business people to discuss their plans for the potato store in the town?” (L)

STRANORLAR ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

34. Clr. A. Bonner
“Will this Council increase the regional and local roads maintenance allocation in this years estimate to reflect the rising cost of materials, labour etc.?” (C)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

35. Clr. A. Bonner
“What plans has this Council to upgrade the water main at Meenavoy as residents have been left without water on numerous occasions because of frequent burst etc?”(L)

GLENTIES ELECTORAL AREA

Housing

36. Clr. D. Alcorn
“Why is there such a delay in paying contractors for the building of S.I. houses?” (C)
37. Clr. Padraig Doherty
“When will the new Council houses be ready for letting in Gweedore?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

38. Clr. D. Alcorn
“Why is there such a delay in processing water connections by this County Council?” (C)

39. Clr. Padraig Doherty
“When will the results of the Tory Island “water testing” be available and when will the Council start the work on the new water scheme?” (L)
40. Clr. B. O’Domhnaill
“Why is Donegal County Council not giving the proper priority to the Gortahork Sewerage Scheme?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

41. Clr. T. Slowey
“When will a new public lighting programme be drawn up and what will be the time scale of its implementation?” (C)
42. Clr. E. Bonner
“When will Donegal County Council provide a footpath from Ard Croine to the Main Street, Dungloe?”
43. Clr. E. Bonner
“When will the crash barrier on the N56 at the top of Loughanure be reinstated and will warning signs be erected at the approach to bend from Dungloe direction?” (L)
44. B. O’Domhnaill
“What progress has Donegal County Council made in ensuring a safety barrier is erected along Loch Salt?” (L)

Corporate Services

45. Clr. T. Slowey
“What checks are carried out by Donegal County Council to ascertain the suitability and character of a staff member before appointment or promotion?” (C)

INISHOWEN ELECTORAL AREA

Housing

46. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What is the current position regarding the progression of an affordable housing scheme in Inishowen?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

47. Clr. F. Conaghan
“What plans have the Council to progress a sewerage scheme for the villages of Bridgend and Burnfoot?” (L)
48. Clr. P. MacLochlainn
“In relation to an application by True North Sub Aqua Club in Inishowen to lease the old fire station in Carndonagh, what input to elected representatives have into the decision making process as to whether the Council assets like the old fire station are sold or leased?” (L)
49. Clr. P. MacLochlainn
“Can Donegal County Council arrange to have the Civic Amenity Site at Carndonagh opened six days a week to facilitate the increasing public demand for the facility?” (L)

Planning & Economic Development

50. Clr. B. McGuinness
“What is the progress/time scale for local area plans in the Inishowen Electoral Area?” (L)

Roads & Transportation

51. Clr. B. McGuinness
“Will the Council provide funding and set up a maintenance program for piers and harbours in the county?” (C)

LETTERKENNY ELECTORAL AREA

Roads & Transportation

52. Clr. T. McDaid
“Has the Council allocated any monies for the upgrading for the existing footpath on the Conwal Road between the O’Donnell Park and Conwal Graveyard in Letterkenny?” (L)
53. Clr. T. McDaid
“Will the Council make available funding for the widening and strengthening of the Lifford to Raphoe Road from Murlog Chapel

to Ballindrait Village in light of the increased volume of heavy vehicle traffic using that road?” (L)

54. Clr. J. Harte
“Will the Council ask the NRA to consider putting traffic lights at the Drumany Junction on the Ballybofey Road?” (L)

55. Clr. D. Larkin
“What progress has been made at Lurgybrack School since they have been back from the summer holidays?” (L)

56. Clr. G. Crawford
“What efforts have been made to provide a footpath from Demense Raphoe (Meadowhill) into town in view of the new housing development in that area?” (L)

57. Clr. G. Crawford
“Has cross border funding been sought for road improvements to the Lifford-Derry road via St. Johnston?” (L)

Water, Environment & Emergency Services

58. Clr. J. Harte
“When do the Council expect the Civic Amenity facility to be in place in Letterkenny?” (L)

Planning & Economic Development

59. Clr. D. Larkin
“May the Council be furnished with an update on all village and town renewal schemes?” (C)

MILFORD ELECTORAL AREA

Corporate Services

60. Clr. I. McGarvey
“Would the Council give an outline of the operation of SPC’s and how they can be developed to best serve the people of Donegal?” (C)

61. Clr. I. McGarvey
“Would it be beneficial to this Council to meet with our Senators, TD’s, Ministers and MEP’s at least four times per year to advise on the required funding and other related matters that adversely affected Donegal over the years?” (C)

MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

62. LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL
“That, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government review the parameters under which our National Car Testing arrangements are conducted.”
63. CLONES TOWN COUNCIL
“Recognising the vital role that part time Fireman play within the community this Council calls on the Department of Social and Family Affairs to acknowledge the impediment of being on 24 hour call brings when applying for jobs, also not being able to take up employment outside the 4 mile radius that is necessary to stay within to be on call. These facts should be taken on board whenever decisions on a part time firemans entitlements to unemployment assistance is made as at the present time many find themselves cut off unemployment assistance on the grounds that they are not making adequate efforts to find full time employment.”
64. CLONES TOWN COUNCIL
“That this Council request the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to urgently review the Habitual Residency clause in social assistance claims, as this can effect Irish people returning from the U.S.A., Canada, Australia etc, because it is left open to interpretation.”
65. DERRY CITY COUNCIL
“That this Council :-
1. In light of the rapidly worsening situation in Maghaberry Prison, calls on the Northern Ireland Office to immediately end

the policy of forced integration of Republican and Pro-Unionist prisoners.

2. Contacts all Councils in Ireland to request that they support this call
3. Nominate an all party delegation to meet with the Northern Ireland Office, the Governor and prisoners representatives at Magheraberry and
4. Demands that proper facilities be provided in the jail for the families visiting prisoners.

66. NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“At the July meeting of this Council the members resolved that I write to all local authorities seeking their support and asking them to write to the Minister for Finance stating their objections to the abolition of rollover relief in respect of capital gains tax on compensation paid to property owners for compulsory acquisition of their land.”

67. LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL

“That we call on all local authorities in the county to appoint one member to a Committee to support the Guards in an effort to get more resources and also to appoint one member to the Donegal Drugs Awareness Committee.”

68. CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

“That all elected Local Government members be provided with equal status to each other, to include equivalent treatment and privilege in all and every assistance available to them from either Central or Local Government.”

MINUTES OF ADJOURNED MEETING OF DONEGAL
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER, 2004

C/446/04 MEMBERS PRESENT

Clrs. P. McGowan, Cathaoirleach, D. Alcorn, L. Blaney, E. Bonner, J. Boyle, C. Brogan, B. Byrne, G. Crawford, Pdraig Doherty, Pearse Doherty, R. Donaghey, J. Harte, P. Kennedy, D. Larkin, T. McDaid, M. McDonald, S. McEniff, I. McGarvey, B. McGuinness, P. MacLochlainn, B. O'Domhnaill, B. O'Neill, J.J. Reid and T. Slowey.

C/447/04 APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from Clrs. A. Bonner, F. Conaghan, N. McBride, D. McGonagle and T. Pringle who were unable to attend the meeting.

C/448/04 OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Michael McLoone, County Manager, Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager/Director of Housing, Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director of Corporate Services, Mr. John McLaughlin, Roads & Transportation, Mr. Aidan McNicholas, Head of Finance, Mr. Michael Heaney, Director Community, Cultural & Enterprise, Mr. Gary Martin, Divisional Manager, Community, Cultural & Enterprise, Mr. Peadar MacRory, Senior Engineer, Mr. Brian Boyle, Meetings Administrator, Ms. AnnMarie Crawford, S.O. , Corporate Services.

C/449/04 TO MAKE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL (PARKING PLACES) BYELAWS 2004

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above. Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation, asked members to note that there was a slight revision to his report and that "in the district Electoral Division of Donegal" was to be inserted after "the Townland of Donegal and the Townland of Mullans Byelaw 3(c).

On the proposal of Clr. Kennedy, seconded by Clr. Byrne, it was resolved, that in accordance with the provisions of Section 36 of the Road Traffic Act, 1994, we the members of

Donegal County Council hereby adopt the Donegal County Council (Parking Places) Bye Laws 2004, as circulated.

Clr. Larkin advised that a motion before Letterkenny Town Council had called for a specific fine (€500) to be levied on persons who parked illegally in disabled parking bays. He requested that a similar initiative be carried out at county level.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation agreed to investigate the matter.

- C/450/04 TO MAKE THE DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL (DONEGAL TOWN CAR PARK) BYE-LAWS 2004
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.
On the proposal of Clr. Padraig Doherty, seconded by Clr. Larkin, it was resolved that “in accordance with the provisions of Section 36 of the Roads Traffic Act, 1994, we the members of Donegal County Council hereby adopt the Donegal County Council (Donegal Town Carpark) Byelaws 2004, as circulated.
- C/451/04 TO APPROVE THE FINAL AMENDED EXPENDITURE FIGURES FOR 2003, AS CONTAINED IN THE DRAFT (UNAUDITED) ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT.
Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.
The County Manager advised that the unaudited accounts set out variations in the figures by programme group and represented the amounts adopted for the Annual Budget. The audited figures, he stated would be brought back before the members for consideration.
On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the amended expenditure figures for 2003 as contained in the Draft (unaudited) Annual Financial Statement for 2003 were approved.
- C/452/04 TO APPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REVISED PAYSCALES FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY STAFF AS SANCTIONED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

A number of members voiced concern in relation to the overall funding of this initiative (2.1m) and enquired as to whether or not the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government had provided additional funding.

The County Manager confirmed that additional funding had been received under the Local Government Fund. He asked members to note that there would be €300,000 savings arising from increases outside the scope of benchmarking and currently the subject of on going negotiations between management and unions at this time.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the implementation of the revised pay scales for local authority staff under Sustaining Progress, as sanctioned by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, was approved.

C/453/04 ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE RURAL WATER MONITORING COMMITTEE.

Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, informed members that Paragraph 18, Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act, 2001 applied, and that the Committee was to comprise of three elected members plus the Cathaoirleach of the Water, Environment & Emergency Services SPC, together with two representatives from Group Schemes and two representatives from rural organisations.

- Clr. Pringle was proposed by Clr. McDaid, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty.
As there were no other candidates Clr. Pringle was elected to the first position.
- Clr. Byrne was proposed by Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Alcorn.
As there were no other candidates, Clr. Byrne was elected to the second position.
- Clr. McBride was proposed by Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. Boyle.
As there were no other candidates, Clr. McBride was elected to the third position.

Clr. Brogan was then proposed by Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Byrne.

Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, advised that he would seek clarification as to whether or not the County Committee on Rural Water Monitoring would accept a fourth nomination.

Mr. Brian Boyle, Meetings Administrator, read into the record the nominees from the Group Water Schemes and Rural Organisations.

These were as follows:-

Group Schemes

Mr. John A. McLaughlin, Carrowmena, Lecamey, Moville
Mr. Liam McDermott, Bredaghglen, Moville

Rural Organisations

Ms. Maureen McLaughlin, Glentown, St. Johnston, (I.C.A.)
Mr. George O'Hagan, Old Mountain, Linsfort, Buncrana, (I.F.A.)

C/454/04

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE

The election of members to the Airport Committee was also governed by Paragraph 18 of Schedule 10, Local Government Act, 2001. Members were informed that the required representation was 8 elected members plus 4 non elected members.

- The members of the Letterkenny Electoral Area were proposed by Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Larkin.

As there were no other candidates proposed, the Cathaoirleach declared Clrs. Brogan, Crawford, Harte, Larkin, and McDaid elected to the first five positions on the Airport Committee.

- Clr. McGarvey was proposed by Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Blaney.

As there were no other candidates proposed, the Cathaoirleach declared Clr. McGarvey elected to the sixth position.

- Clr. A. Bonner was proposed by Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Alcorn.

As there were no other candidates proposed, the Cathaoirleach declared Clr. A. Bonner elected to the seventh position.

- Clr. Donaghey was proposed by Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. Larkin.

As there were no other candidates proposed the Cathaoirleach declared Clr. Donaghey elected to the eighth position.

Thus Clrs. A. Bonner, Brogan, Crawford, Donaghey, Harte, Larkin, McDaid and McGarvey were selected as representatives on the Airport Committee.

C/455/04

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PLACENAMES COMMITTEE.

Mr. Brian Boyle, Meetings Administrator read into the record the names of those nominated by the six Electoral Area Committees.

These were as follows:-

Donegal

Clr. Brendan Byrne
Clr. John Boyle

Glenties

Clr. Pearse Doherty
Clr. Pdraig Doherty

Milford

Clr. Liam Blaney
Clr. Noel McBride

Inishowen

Clr. Marian McDonald
Clr. Rena Donaghey

Letterkenny

Clr. Jimmy Harte
Clr. Tony McDaid

Stranorlar

Clr. J. J. Reid
Clr. Patrick McGowan

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, Clrs. Blaney, Boyle, Byrne, Pdraig Doherty, Pearse Doherty, Donaghey, Harte, McBride, McDaid, McDonald, McGowan and Reid were elected to the Placenames Committee.

C/456/04 ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO DONEGAL PEACE II TASKFORCE.

Members were informed that the required representation was 12 elected members plus the Cathaoirleach.

Mr. Brian Boyle, Meetings Administrator read into the record, the names of those nominated by the six Electoral Area Committees.

These were as follows:-

Donegal

Clr. Sean McEniff

Clr. John Boyle

Milford

Clr. Liam Blaney

Clr. Ian McGarvey

Letterkenny

Clr. Ciaran Brogan

Clr. Dessie Larkin

Glenties

Clr. Enda Bonner

Clr. Pearse Doherty

Stranorlar

Clr. J. J. Reid

Clr. Alice Bonner

Inishowen

Clr. Marian McDonald

Clr. Bernard McGuinness

Cathaoirleach

Clr. Patrick McGowan

The Cathaoirleach advised that Clr. J. J. Reid would serve on the Placenames Committee for 2004/2005 i.e for the duration of Clr. McGowan's tenure as Cathaoirleach.

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, Clrs. Blaney, Boyle, E. Bonner, A. Bonner, Brogan, Pearse Doherty, Larkin, McDonald, McEniff, McGarvey, McGuinness and J.J. Reid and the Cathaoirleach of the day were elected to the Donegal Peace II Taskforce.

C/457/04 ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE DONEGAL HERITAGE FORUM

Mr. Brian Boyle, Meetings Administrator, read into the record the names of those nominated by the six Electoral Area Committees to represent Donegal County Council on the Donegal Heritage Forum.

These were as follows:-

Glenties Letterkenny
Clr. Pearse Doherty Clr. Jimmy Harte

Milford Inishowen
Clr. Ian McGarvey Clr. Denis McGonagle

Stranorlar Donegal
Clr. Patrick McGowan Clr. Barry O'Neill

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. McEniff, Clrs. Pearse Doherty, Harte, McGarvey, McGonagle, McGowan and O'Neill were elected to the Donegal Heritage Forum.

C/458/04 TO ADOPT SCHEME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES 2004-2005

Members considered the report, circulated with the agenda, in relation to the above.

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. O'Domhnaill, it was resolved to adopt the Scheme for the establishment and operation of Strategic Policy Committees 2004-2009.

It was agreed that Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director of Corporate Services would meet with Party Whips to progress the membership of the SPC's.

C/459/04 REMINDER-INDUCTION SEMINAR FOR NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS TO BE HELD AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FROM 08TH OCTOBER –11TH DECEMBER, 2004

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was agreed that all new members attend the above seminar, with Sligo and Monaghan being the most suitable venues.

C/460/04 PORTLAOISE CONVENTION TO BE HELD ON 20TH AND 21ST OCTOBER, 2004 IN THE HERITAGE HOTEL, PORTLAOISE.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved to send

four members to the above Conference, in accordance with the usual 2,1,1, arrangements, i.e. 2 Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael and 1 other.

C/461/04 ECO BUSINESS – NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON 20^H AND 21ST OCTOBER, 2004 IN DUNDALK, COUNTY LOUTH.

Having considered the criteria set out in Section 142 5(d) of the Local Government Act, 2001, on the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. Donaghey, it was resolved to send four members to the above conference, in accordance with the usual 2,1,1 arrangements, i.e. 2 Fianna Fail, 1 Fine Gael and 1 other.

An amendment was proposed by Clr. Pearse Doherty, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn that two members only should attend the above conferences in view of the value for money issues raised at previous meetings. In accordance with Standing Orders a recorded vote was taken on the amendment.

The vote resulted in 3 for, 17 against and 1 abstention.

Those voting in favour were:-

Clrs. Pearse Doherty, McDaid and MacLochlainn. (3)

Those voting against were:-

Clrs. Alcorn, Blaney, E. Bonner, Boyle, Byrne, Crawford, Pdraig Doherty, Donaghey, Harte, Kennedy, Larkin, McDonald, McEniff, McGowan, O'Domhnaill, O'Neill and Slowey. (17)

Clr. McGarvey abstained

A show of hands was taken on the motion with 17 members voting for and 3 voting against.

The Cathaoirleach declared the motion carried and noted that the usual 2,1,1 arrangement would prevail.

C/462/04 CATHAOIRLEACH'S BUSINESS

The Cathaoirleach informed members that :-

- A football match challenge was being arranged between the members of Donegal County Council and a team from the local media. The match would, he advised be played to raise funds for the Donegal Hospice, with confirmation of the relevant date, and sponsorship details would be made available at a later date.
- Best wishes were extended to Clr. Jimmy Harte, Harry Walsh (Derry People) and Ciaran O'Donnell (Donegal Democrat) who were due to compete in the forthcoming Dublin City Marathon.
- Northern Ireland Electricity were complimented on their recent gesture to the people of Killygordon i.e. the postponement of works in the area at the request of the local community.
- Members requested that the meetings of both the Agricultural and Cultural Committee be convened as soon as possible.

Clr. McGowan noted that there had been much debate in relation to the economy and employment issues in Donegal over the past few months, with repeated calls for the formation of an Economic Development Committee. He requested that the County Manager and his officials facilitate the formation of such a Committee.

C/463/04 COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

The County Manager outlined the main points of his report, together with the addendum circulated at the Council Meeting on 27th September, 2004. (Appendix 1)

A copy of the presentation given by the County Manager and Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation in relation to the review of National Road Design in Donegal was made available to members.

Mr. McLoone agreed to circulate a copy to the Border Midlands and Western Regional Assembly and the Border Regional Authority at the members request.

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Slowey, it was resolved to hold the Local Authority Budget Meeting 2004, on Friday 17th December, at 11.00am in the County House, Lifford.

The allocation of €250,000 for the Central Heating Programme was welcomed with members insisting that value for money initiatives were prioritised.

A number of members indicated; however, that the €1500 standard grant estimate was insufficient. Mr. Liam Kelly, Assistant County Manager, Director of Housing advised that this could be reviewed when all the tenders for the scheme were returned in November.

In reply to a number of queries on the sourcing of additional funding, Mr. McLoone state that he had been in contact with the Department of Environment & Local Government in relation to a number of proposals put forward by members. The Minister had, he said been unable to sanction these as they required a change in the way local Government was funded. He agreed to come back to members on the matter at a future meeting of the Council.

On the proposal of Clr. McEniff, seconded by Clr. Slowey, it was resolved that a Special Meeting would be held on Monday 29th November 2004, at 10.00am, in the County House, Lifford to review the Draft Donegal Town Local Area Plan 2004-2010.

C/464/04 DAILY CLEAN UP AT BOTTLE BANKS

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Padraig Doherty the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council organise a daily clean up at bottle banks and rubbish bins at both town streets and beaches especially during the tourist season.”

Members were informed that the Council currently had 50 recycling centres throughout the county. All sites catered for glass and cans while a number also catered for textiles. Plastic and paper recycling banks were also provided at a number of sites there were able to accommodate the large containers. All recycling banks were emptied regularly. The Council was in continual contact with the service providers

to ensure that frequency of collection was adequate. The level of service had improved over recent months. There was an ongoing problem at bring sites with illegal dumping of waste. This ranged from users leaving bags and containers, used to bring bottles and cans to the banks, behind at the sites to the illegal disposal of household waster. The extent of the problem varied from location to location. The Council had installed CCTV cameras at a number of sites worst affected. Fines had been issued to a number of people found to be illegally dumping at recycling banks or other public areas. Education and awareness was also an important factor in “changing our ways”. The Council’s Waster Awareness Officer was doing excellent work through the schools, community groups and the “Green Piece” in local newspapers.

Cleanups and emptying of bins at beaches were carried out by the area roads workfoce on behalf of the environment service. The frequency of such visits varied depending on the degree of use, and within available budgets.

The Council’s Mobile Litter Units visit each recycling facility regularly and in all cases at least once per week. In addition, the units also visit the beaches regularly during the tourist season. It was not possible; however, for a daily service to be provided with staff and financial resources in the current year. This matter could be examined in the context of the budget for 2002.

Clr. E. Bonner stated that there were ongoing problems in relation to the beach at Portnoo, and with bottle banks in Dungloe and Derrybeg.

Members were in agreement that more attention to detail was required and that litter wardens needed to maintain a more obvious presence.

The main concerns raised were:-

- Lack of bins and signposting on the counties main beaches.
- The delay in filling litter warden positions
- Need for a more proactive approach to the litter problem
- Lack of funding

Mr. Peadar MacRory, Senior Engineer, Water, Environment & Emergency Services confirmed that the main focus of funding to date had been concentrated on Blue Flag Beaches.

He agreed to look at the funding issue in conjunction with the 2005 Budget preparations. There was a need, he stressed to highlight the whole area of litter fines.

Mr. MacRory also advised that three new litter wardens were to be appointed and it was hoped to have the positions filled by the end of the month.

In reply to Clr. Crawford's query on the designation of locations for recycle bins, he advised, that where sites had been made available locally, funding had been provided.

Clr. Crawford requested that he be updated on the reasons why a clothes and plastics bank was not provided in Lifford when a site was clearly available.

Issues surrounding street cleaning, were, Mr. MacRory added a matter for the Roads Service.

C/465/04 The Cathaoirleach adjourned the meeting until 2.30pm for a 1 hour lunch break.

C/466/04 APPLICATION TO THE NRA FOR FUNDING IN RELATION TO THE FROSSES JUNCTION TO THE MILLTOWN BAR.

On the proposal of Clr. MacLochlainn, seconded by Clr. Boyle, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council apply to the NRA for the same type of funding as was allocated to Bruckless on the N56 for the Frosses Junction to the Milltown Bar to improve this dangerous stretch of road.”

Members were informed that this section of the N56 from the Frosses Junction to the Milltown Bar was indeed in poor condition and that an application would be made to the NRA to have this section funded in the coming year.

The pavement improvements at Bruckless this year were part of the ongoing N56 Pavement Strengthening and it had proved to be very successful.

Clr. MacLochlainn informed members that Clr. Pringles absence in the chamber was in fact due to a traffic accident on this particular stretch of road.

Mr. John McLaughlin, Director of Roads & Transportation, said that he hoped funding would be made available in 2005.

C/467/04 EXAMINATION OF ERG AND DPG GRANTS IN RELATION TO THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF GRANT FOR THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF WORK.

On the proposal of Clr. McGowan, seconded by Clr. Lakrin, it was resolved to defer Clr. A. Bonner's motion to the November, Meeting.

C/468/04 EVALUATION OF FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING A CINEMA IN DUNGLOE

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. E. Bonner, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council through our Community & Enterprise Section in conjunction with Forbairt na Rosann, Dungloe, evaluate the feasibility of providing a much needed cinema in Dungloe as part of the proposed Foreshore Plan.

Members were informed that the Community & Enterprise Unit would evaluate the initial proposals with Forbairt na Rosann and assess in conjunction with the Planning & Economic Directorate, as part of the proposed Foreshore Plan, the potential for the integration of such a facility within that area.

It was likely based upon similar businesses throughout the county, that such an initiative may have to be private sector led although it was noted that Údaras na Gaeltachta had considered the provision of such facilities within the Gweedore area as part of the overall development of the industrial estate.

Members noted that it was not the function of Donegal County Council to provide such a facility but acknowledged that it could perhaps facilitate the process.

C/469/04 UPDATE ON TASKFORCE REPORT ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council update the Taskforce Report on unemployment to reflect the present position.”

Members were informed that the Economic Development Forum of the Donegal County Development Board was

currently undertaking a review of the Donegal Taskforce Report. The purpose of this review was to :-

- (a) Review the various activities undertaken under the framework of the Donegal Taskforce report/An Straiteis 2002-2010
- (b) Critically assess the job losses and job gains in the county in terms of sector and geographical location.
- (c) Establish the views of the private sector with a view to determining the key challenges/issues faced by business in county Donegal.
- (d) Recommend actions to address the issues highlighted.

This report would be presented to the Donegal County Development Board on 26th October, 2004.

As far as actions carried out by the Council by way of direct support to various economic sectors within the county please see motion 250 for detail.

Mr. Michael Heaney, Director of Community, Cultural & Enterprise noted that a template was being drawn up and would be presented to members at Electoral Area Meetings before being put forward for approval at ICBAN Board Meetings.

A number of members called for greater emphasis to be placed on the location of projects in West Donegal.

The County Manager advised that a dedicated staff base existed in the Community, Cultural & Enterprise Unit who would examine all sources of funding. He agreed to check with each Director whether or not suitable projects were in existence, which could be located in the west of the county. On this basis he agreed to come back to the members with a report at a future meeting of the Council. It was hoped, Mr. McLoone confirmed to introduce a system in 2005 which would provide a reasonable spread of activity over the county as a whole. There was also, he stated, room for the Roads Division to liase with Community, Culture & Enterprise, thus providing: -

- A single channel for bids to Interreg and,
- A single channel of communications

Clr. Slowey stated that the resources required to implement the Taskforces recommendations had never been provided, particularly roads infrastructure.

On the proposal of Clr. Slowey, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn it was resolved that a delegation meet with the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Michael Martin to discuss the current unemployment situation, in the county.

A lengthy debate ensued with members highlighting the following points.:-

- That change and solutions to the problem needed to be carried out under the auspices of the Community Development Board with the association of Donegal County Council.
- That Donegal County Council needed to be promoted as an investment location.
- Infrastructure and access to the county needed to be further developed.
- The reintroduction of the Community Employment Schemes would be helpful.

The Cathaoirleach agreed that Clr. McDaid's motion in relation to the continuing job losses in the county could be taken at this juncture.

On the proposal of Clr. McDaid, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council calls on the Government to urgently address the need to stop the continuing haemorrhaging of job losses in Donegal in light of 5,000 job losses in the county in the past eight years and the impending job losses in Unfi and the Fruit of the Loom.”

Members were informed that the Council had in October, 2003 met with the Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment to highlight key infrastructural needs for the county which included telecommunications (broadband), improved electricity infrastructure, waster infrastructure in the greater Letterkenny area, roads

infrastructure particularly in the context of the City of Derry and Donegal International Airports.

Donegal County Council had been pro-active in implementing various initiatives to assist in the creation of infrastructure to support job creation in the county. A substantial proportion of these activities had come about directly as a result of the Task Force formed following the Fruit of the Loom initial job loss announcements and had revolved around:-

- Direct and indirect support provided to Regional Airports in Donegal and Derry to assist in the creation of additional tourism numbers into the area and also to assist in the task of the Development Organisations in job creation in Donegal.
- The Council leading out in the purchase of various factory space in the county to kick start employment creating opportunities in areas such as Malin, Fahan and Lifford.
- The Council had been instrumental in co-ordinating and leading the development of key infrastructural projects including:-
 - (a) The establishment and roll out of broadband infrastructure in the county including the Metropolitan Area Network in Letterkenny and more recently the proposed mini –Metropolitan Area Networks in Bundoran and Stranorlar/Ballybofey.
 - (b) In developing proposals to create cross-border resilience, redundancy and competitiveness again to assist in making Donegal an area attractive for both indigenous and foreign direct investment in the context of knowledge based business.
 - (c) In areas such as Marine Leisure the Council had also led out in the establishment of a Marine Leisure Unit which had seen the development of a range of proposals revolving around angling, marina development and various coastal zone and beach management related projects to support the tourism product within the county.

The Council had also been responsible for the initiation and management of a range of projects across various sectoral areas in recognition of their importance to the economy of the county. These included the preparation of a sea fish

industry strategy which would be published shortly, a successful application to INTERREG III A for funding to support the agricultural sector in the county in developing opportunities revolving around non food crops, the successful application to the Special EU Programmes Body for funding to support the forestry industry in the county in the form of developing greater expertise and knowledge and adding value to existing markets, various initiatives in the tourism sector included proactively supporting the applications for the Fleadh Ceoil for Donegal in 2006 and 2007 and managing the successful applications for the Oireachtas and Pan Celtic festivals in 2005. Further proactive initiatives in the tourism area revolved around the management of the DG fish conference in May 2004 and the ongoing management and support for the ferry services currently serving Greencastle/Magilligan and Buncrana/Rathmullan.

The Economic Development Forum of the Donegal County Development Board was currently undertaking a review of the Donegal Taskforce report. The purpose of this review was to :-

- (a) Review the various activities undertaken under the framework of the Donegal Taskforce report/An Straiteis 2002-2010
- (b) Critically assess the job losses and job gains in the county in terms of sector and geographical location.
- (c) Establish the views of the private sector with a view to determining the key challenges/issues faced by business in county Donegal.
- (d) Recommend actions to address the issues highlighted.

Clr. McDaid appealed for cross party co-operation on the matter, given the fact that the Northwest was now an unemployment blackspot.

On the proposal of Clr. McDaid, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty, it was resolved that the delegation to meet the Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Mr. Michael Martin formally endorse the right of the people of the county to gainful employment, and the receipt of just redundancy packages.

The County Manager stated that if the members analysis of the current situation was correct he would strive to update and identify structural weakness, while accelerating the push for funding. In this respect he agreed to work with Mr. Michael Heaney, Director Community, Cultural & Enterprise to bring the Review of the Donegal Taskforce report before members.

Mr. McLoone agreed to write to An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern and Mr. Michael Martin, Minister Enterprise, Trade and Employment outlining members concerns and documenting their request for a meeting to discuss the airport unemployment situation in the county.

C/470/04 APPLICATIONS TO INTERREG III

On the proposal of Clr. E. Bonner, seconded by Clr. Alcorn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Community and Enterprise Section of Donegal County Council and other officials be active in promoting and making applications to Interreg III and also liase with members in relation to Council led applications through Cross Border Groups.”

Members were informed that the Community & Enterprise Division was active in pursuing funding opportunities through Interreg III and Peace II. Examples of these included applications to the Special EU Programmes Body for Youth Council Development (in conjunction with Fermanagh District Council), a Cultural Diversity Project (in conjunction with Dungannon and South Tyrone Borough Council), and a Cross Border Mobile Library Service (in conjunction with the Western Educational Library Board). Funding had also been obtained from the County Council led Peace II Taskforce for waking route development in the county.

In the context of Interreg, applications were at an advanced stage and were being considered for a non food crops related agricultural project and an Arts Centre related project in Letterkenny. Furthermore, funding had been provided for the development of a touring route from Causeway Coast area across the Inishowen Peninsula into west Donegal as part of a cross border tourism marketing initiative. Additionally,

discussions had taken place with both ICBAN and Northwest Region Cross Border Group, the intermediary funding bodies for a number of the INTERREG measures, in relation to other potential areas for funding.

Clr. E. Bonner advised that he was concerned about the lack of opportunity being provided for small and medium sized businesses. It was essential, he added the Community & Enterprise Section made details of all available funding readily accessible to the small business community. He also requested that projects within the Donegal and Glenties Electoral Area earmarked for funding be discussed thoroughly at Electoral Area Meetings.

C/471/04 CHILDCARE FACILITIES AT WILLOW COTTAGE SITE IN DUNFANAGHY

On the proposal of Clr. O'Domhnaill, seconded by Clr. Pdraig Dohert, the following motion was adopted:-

“I call on Donegal County Council to make the Willow Cottage site in Dunfanaghy available for the planned provision of a childcare facility in the village.”

Members were informed that the provision of childcare and the responsibility for same lay with the County Childcare Committee. The suitability of the site would have to be examined by the Childcare Committee and the North Western Health Board to establish its suitability for a childcare facility subject to the initial agreement of the relevant Council Directorate with responsibility for the site.

Clr. O'Domhnaill stressed the need for an early decision on the matter.

C/472/04 PROBLEMS AT MAGHERAROARTY HARBOUR

On the proposal of Clr. Pdraig Doherty, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty, the following motion was adopted:-

“That Donegal County Council will study the ongoing problems at Magheraroarty Harbour silting and make proposals as to how the situation can be improved.”

Members were informed that this would be done. A survey was carried out before and after the contract and now another one would be done. The Council anticipated that it would be done in early 2005.

Clr. O'Domhnaill congratulated the Marine Section on the excellent work carried out on the construction of the pier. There was a great need, he confirmed to maintain the harbour to a satisfactory standard for the benefit of both fishermen and ferry operators. There was also a serious problem in relation to sewerage leaking into the harbour from storm drains. Clr. O'Domhnaill said this required immediate attention and called for the erection of a holding tank to remove the sewerage. Clr. Padraig Doherty requested that a case be made to the Department to have dredging facilities provided in Donegal.

C/473/04 PERMANENT LIBRARY SITE IN
NEWTOWNCUNNINGHAM

On the proposal of Clr. Alcorn, seconded by Clr. O'Domhnaill, it was resolved to defer Clr. Conaghan's motion to the November Council Meeting.

C/474/04 DEVELOPMENT, UPGRADE AND MAINTENANCE OF
THE INISHOWEN 100 TOURIST ROUTE.

On the proposal of Clr. McGuinness, seconded by Clr. McDonald, the following motion was adopted:-

“That the Council provides €100,000 for the development, upgrade and maintenance of the Inishowen 100 route.”

Members were informed that the provision of funds under the Roadworks Programme, for roads such as the Inishowen 100 was prioritised in the first instance at Electoral Area level. This funding could be earmarked out of allocations such as Discretionary Improvement, Restoration Improvement or in the case of maintenance from Discretionary Maintenance all of which were provided by the DOE.

The Council had no special road funds for tourist routes such as the Inishowen 100.

Clr. McGuinness advised that he was looking for funding for this project out of the tourism budget. Given the volume of traffic now generated by the new ferry services, it was essential that upgrading work be carried out on the route he added.

A number of members highlighted the fact that the Inishowen 100 route was an important marketing weapon in terms of tourist infrastructure.

On the proposal of Clr. Blaney, seconded by Clr. O'Domhnaill it was resolved that the Atlantic Drive and Downings also be provided for.

Mr. John McLaughlin advised that it would be necessary to examine the matter in the context of the 2005 Budget. The County Manager informed members that there was no extra funding for tourism projects and that any funding available this year was contained within the Development Fund.

C/475/04 VARIATION IN THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN REGARDING SHORE WALK, MOVILLE.

On the proposal of Clr. McDonald, seconded by Clr. MacLochlainn, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council calls for a variation of the county development plan in order to change the lands along side the shore walk from Eugene’s Hall, Moville to Lafferty’s Lane, Glenburney from Category 1 to Category 3 in order to protect the amenities in that area from inappropriate developments.”

Members were informed that the area between Moville and Greencastle was within an area classified as Landscape Category 1 in the Development Plan 2000 (map no 1 refers). The Category 1 area was primarily the low lying farm/open land atypical of the county where most of the rural activity takes place. Category 2 land was highly scenic where the natural character had been modified by human intervention. Such areas included much of the low lying coastal zone, valleys, the islands and foothills of the uplands. The landscape was distinguished by small fields, stone ditches, a pattern of hedgegrows and a scatter of established houses.

On the other hand however, Category 3 areas, reflect the highest quality landscape in the county, distinctive due to the lack of human intervention and characterised in many areas by scenic wilderness and solitude. Such areas included the high cliff coastal zone and the upland mountain areas running as a spine through the county. As a consequence the highest degree of protection is given to Category 3 areas.

It was considered that the areas between Merville and Greencastle were correctly classified within Category 1 and that variation of the Development Plan to facilitate a change from Category 1 and 3 would be wholly appropriate and unsustainable from a planning point of view.

If members were concerned about inappropriate development between the 2 settlements switching from one landscape category to another was the wrong approach. The current County Development Plan indicated that higher density multiple housing developments would generally only be permitted within defined control points for towns. Limited multiple development up to 5 units were permissible in certain rural areas outside the control points. Both Merville and Greencastle had defined control points and it was considered that it was premature to alter or modify them at this stage, as such an issue would be considered in the ongoing review of the County Development Plan and therefore no short-term amendment was justifiable.

The road between Merville and Greencastle was a scenic route and part of the "Inishowen 100". The County Development Plan recognised the need to protect such areas of special amenity value and interest. It was an objective in the Development Plan to conserve the overall character of these roads and the views to be had from them. The coastline between the settlements was served by the Slí na Slainte route, and this shore walk was a valuable asset and resource, as much as the roads mentioned above. Consideration should be given in the preparation of the new County Development Plan to provide similar protection to shoreline walks and other footpaths and the views from them. Such policy development to be included as a matter of priority in the review process of the County Development Plan.

Members of the Inishowen Electoral Area were in agreement that there was an urgent need to protect this stretch of land. They highlighted the fact that it would be highly undesirable to have large scale development of holiday homes etc. in such a scenic area.

Mr. Sean Sheridan, Director Corporate Services, advised members that they had now initiated a material alteration to the County Development Plan.

C/476/04

FAHAN MARINA

Motion submitted by Clr. Padraig MacLochlainn:-

“That as Donegal County Council has already endorsed the recent Donegal Marina Development Strategy, which highlighted Fahan Marina as a flagship marina project in the county, this Council reaffirms without equivocation that Fahan Marina is a project worthy of the support of any relevant funding agency or Government Department, without prejudice to other applicants.”

Moving the motion, Clr. MacLochlainn stated that in an earlier survey carried out by Kirk McClure Morton, Fahan had been identified as the best location for development of a Marina Project. However, having now been employed by Donegal County Council they were advocating the development of a Marina in Rathmullan.

Clr. MacLochlainn stated that over €4 million had been invested in the Fahan Project by developers and to date Donegal County Council had spent €1.26 million on consultants reports to develop Buncrana and Rathmullan. The main issue here, Clr. MacLochlainn added was the fact that the Deloitte Report had previously identified Fahan as a flagship project. The provision of €800,000 Interegg funding to a Community Development Company in Moville was, he suggested extremely unfair given that the Deloitte Report had already established that the development of other marinas in the county would be in tandem with the Fahan Project.

Clr. Donaghey sought clarification on the legal status of the Fahan Marina and asked that the motion be deferred until confirmation of same was available.

The County Manager, in response, advised that Donegal County Council had always acted in accordance with the decisions taken on the Deloitte Report. He confirmed that he had met with various funding agencies and had at all times indicated that the Fahan development was not in contradiction to the Council's own development strategy. Clr. MacLochlainn suggested that the current position clearly left the way open for other projects to compete with the Fahan development and advised that he wished to have the wording "without prejudice to other applications" removed from the motion.

Clr. MacLochlainn then proposed, seconded by Clr. Pearse Doherty:-

"That Donegal County Council now endorses the recent Donegal Marina Development Strategy, as was recommended by Deloitte and Touche Report, and will, therefore, focus its resources on the six identified Marinas."

The County Manager outlined for members the course of action agreed previously in relation to marina development. He noted that it had been agreed that every support would be given to Fahan, in accordance with the Council's own policy and that a Marine and Water Leisure Company be established to develop the five sites prioritised with members agreeing, in principle, to an annual contribution for the operating costs.

The question now to be decided was whether or not Kevin O'Connor (Marine Tourism Development Officer) should be instructed to get involved if other projects came forward.

C/477/04

MANOR TO LIFFORD ROUNDABOUT

On the proposal of Clr. Harte, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted:-

"That this Council calls on the NRA to set a date for the completion of the new Manor to Lifford Road."

Members were informed that regarding National Primary Schemes, it was the Council's understanding that the NRA would fund the construction of the Manor/Lifford Scheme after funding of the Ballybofey/Stranorlar Bypass which was

expected to closely follow Bundoran/Ballyshannon Scheme which was now being built.

The Strabane/Lifford/Whitecross Design did not receive InterReg funding this year and this should help advance the design in conjunction with NRA funds.

Members noted that this was one of the most dangerous stretches of road in the county. They called on the Director of Roads & Transportation to pursue funding issues with the National Roads Authority.

C/478/04 MAKING SAFE OF TRAFFIC CALMING STANDS AND BOLLARDS

On the proposal of Clr. Crawford, seconded by Clr. Larkin, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss whatever plans it may have to make safe traffic calming stands and bollards- many of which have become dangerous.”

Members were informed that most of the traffic calming islands and bollards were located on National Routes. The NRA were at present drawing up maintenance contracts to have all traffic calming areas repaired and maintained by contract. It was expected that the contractor would begin repairs/maintenance in the near future.

Clr. Crawford stated that many of the traffic claming measures were faulty. He highlighted the fact that all the traffic lane markings at Lifford roundabout had disappeared and that a light on the roundabout had been faulty since August 2003. He queried as to when exactly these matters would be rectified. Mr. John McLaughlin, Director Roads & Transportation advised that he had seen the maintenance contracts for the upkeep of traffic calming islands and bollards as devised by the NRA. He agreed to check the specifications and come back to Clr. Crawford regarding same. In relation to Non National Roads he confirmed that he would come back to members through the Electoral Area Meetings.

C/479/04 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ELECTORAL AREA MEETINGS.

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. Blaney, the following motion was adopted:-

“That this Council discuss and delegate authority to Electoral Area Meetings that they would have decision making functions in relation to matters that effect their areas.”

Members were informed that when the Electoral Area Committees were first set up by resolution of the Council in 1996, they were established as Sub Committees of the General Purposes Committee. This meant that the recommendations of each Committee were subject to approval of the full Council- this was generally achieved through the formal adoption of minutes.

The work of each Committee was supported by the Area Management Team for the Electoral Area. Each of the Area Managers was required to attend the meetings, to prepare reports and recommendations for discussion by the members and to follow up on issues raised and matters decided.

The format of the agenda for Electoral Area Committees had remained largely unchanged since the establishment of the Committees. Items for discussion generally included:-

- Tabling of detailed proposals for local work programmes, arising from financial allocations (e.g. Roadworks Programme, Housing Maintenance Programme, Water/Wastewater Operation and Maintenance, and so on) and agreeing the priority of job/projects with members
- Presentation of regular progress reports on the implementation of annual work programmes, identifying changes needed in order to accommodate adopted motions
- Reviews of spending against budget allocations for both programmed and non-programmed works
- Reports on follow ups to relevant questions/motions tabled on previous Council/Committee meetings
- Receiving deputations from local groups

When the Standing Orders of the Council were reviewed in 2002, it was suggested that each member would have the option of putting down a maximum of two Questions and

one Motion at each meeting. An issue for debate for the members was whether Questions and Motions and Electoral Area Committee level should reflect issues that could be resolved in local work programmes and through local decision making; and whether Questions and Motions at County Council level should related to issues which required county –wide decisions on funding, policy etc. At that time, the members decided to retain the option of submitting motions and questions on local operational matters for discussion at meetings of the full Council.

If the members were in agreement, a review of the operation of the Electoral Committees could be undertaken by the Corporate Policy Group, with a report and recommendations to be brought back to the full Council.

C/480/04 MOTIONS FROM OTHER COUNCILS

On the proposal of Clr. McGarvey, seconded by Clr. E. Bonner, it was agreed to adopt the following motions from other Councils:-

LIMERICK COUNTY COUNCIL

“That, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government review the parameters under which out National Car Testing arrangements are conducted.”

CLONES TOWN COUNCIL

“Recognising the vital role that part time Fireman play within the community this Council calls on the Department of Social and Family Affairs to acknowledge the impediment of being on 24 hour call brings when applying for jobs, also not being able to take up employment outside the 4 mile radius that is necessary to stay within to be on call. These facts should be taken on board whenever decisions on a part time firemans entitlements to unemployment assistance is made as at the present time many find themselves cut off unemployment assistance on the grounds that they are not making adequate efforts to find full time employment.”

CLONES TOWN COUNCIL

“That this Council request the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister for Justice and the Minister for Social and Family Affairs to urgently review the Habitual Residency clause in social assistance claims, as this can effect Irish

people returning from the U.S.A., Canada, Australia etc, because it is left open to interpretation.”

DERRY CITY COUNCIL

“That this Council :-

1. In light of the rapidly worsening situation in Maghaberry Prison, calls on the Northern Ireland Office to immediately end the policy of forced integration of Republican and Pro-Unionist prisoners.
2. Contacts all Councils in Ireland to request that they support this call
3. Nominate an all party delegation to meet with the Northern Ireland Office, the Governor and prisoners representatives at Magheraberry and
4. Demands that proper facilities be provided in the jail for the families visiting prisoners.

NORTH TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

“At the July meeting of this Council the members resolved that I write to all local authorities seeking their support and asking them to write to the Minister for Finance stating their objections to the abolition of rollover relief in respect of capital gains tax on compensation paid to property owners for compulsory acquisition of their land.”

LETTERKENNY TOWN COUNCIL

“That we call on all local authorities in the county to appoint one member to a Committee to support the Guards in an effort to get more resources and also to appoint one member to the Donegal Drugs Awareness Committee.”

CLONMEL BOROUGH COUNCIL

“That all elected Local Government members be provided with equal status to each other, to include equivalent treatment and privilege in all and every assistance available to them from either Central or Local Government.”

C/481/04

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On the proposal of Clr. Larkin, seconded by Clr. Blaney, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting for fifteen minutes to

allow members to consider relevant dates for the scheduling of Working Group Meetings in relation to the review of the County Development Plan.

C/482/04 ABANDONMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was then abandoned due to the absence of a quorum.

The following questions were submitted :-

C/483/04 GLENCOLUMBKILLE FIRE STATION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“What plans has this Council to improve the Glencolumbkille Fire Station in line with other improvements to fire stations throughout the county?”

Clr. Byrne was informed that the replacement of the Fire Station at Glencolumbkille formed part of Donegal County Council’s renewal programme for thirteen Fire Stations. A design team headed by Rhatigan & Company, Sligo had been appointed to design and supervise the construction of the following stations:-
Stranorlar, Glencolumbkille, Merville, Gweedore, Dungloe and Glenties.

A Fire Station model design had been prepared and it was proposed by the Council to use this model for each of the towns, including Glencolumbkille Fire Station.

A suitable site for a new Fire Station at Glencolumbkille would be required. Following approval of the selected site the Council needed approval in principle from the Department to proceed to planning.

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government funds the Fire Stations replacement programme and its progression was dependant on approvals from the Department.

Currently, the DOEHLG had given approval for a 3 Bay Fire Station to go to construction at Killybegs and for detailed designs to be prepared for Fire Stations at Glenties and Dungloe. Sites had been approved for these two stations and the Council would consider approval under Part 8 of the Planning Act at the meeting on 27th September, 2004.

The agreed programme of Fire Station replacement also included Movilee, Bundoran, Ballyshannon Stranorlar and Gweedore.

C/484/04 RECYCLING FACILITIES AT KILCAR

The following question was submitted by Clr. Byrne:-

“Can the Council make a provision for recycling facilities at Kilcar, as currently no such facilities exist there?”

Clr. Byrne was informed that a satisfactory site could be identified for bring banks, Kilcar would be placed on the 2005 list for bring bank centres. This service would cover both bottle and can banks.

The Council would be pleased to consider any suggestions in relation to potential sites.

C/485/04 GROUP WATER SCHEME BLOCK CAPITAL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“How much of the Group Water Scheme block capital grant has been drawn down to date?”

Clr. Pringle was informed that the year 2004 allocation in respect of the Rural Water Programme was €3.648m, broke down as follows:-

- Design Build Operate (DBO) Schemes 150,000
- Connect to public mains 500,000
- Takeover and upgrade 500,000
- Small Public Schemes 600,000
- New group and upgrade schemes 1,898,000

Drawdown by year end would be 100% for the takeover and upgrade, small public schemes and new group and upgrade schemes.

- €100,000 out of €150,000 allocated for DBO, and nil for connection to public mains.

This last measure “connect to public mains” was problematic in that a local contribution of 15% was required from the groups.

An application to drawdown the first 50% of the block grant funding was currently under preparation. The balance would be drawn down at the end of November.

C/486/04 BALLYSHANNON SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. McEniff:-

“What is the up to date position regarding Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme?”

Clr. McEniff was informed that Ballyshannon Sewerage Scheme consisted of 2 contracts.

Contract 1 was for the construction of the Main Pumping Stations, Rising Mains, Wastewater Treatment Works, and Outfall. For contract purposes it was grouped with similar infrastructure on the Donegal and Rossnowlagh Schemes. Tenders had been returned on Contract 1 (WWTW) and the tender assessment was now taking place. As this was a Design Build Operate contract the tender assessment was a lengthy process which would take a number of months to complete. It was anticipated that the tender assessment report would be submitted to the DOEHLG for approval in December, 2004. Earliest estimated construction start March, 2005.

Tenders had been returned on Contract 2 (Network) and was now being finalised. Contract 2 was rehabilitation of the existing network, construction of network extensions and outlying pumping stations. This contract had been tendered and the tender report was now being finalised. It would be submitted to the DOEHLG for approval in October 2004. Earliest estimated construction start January 2005.

C/487/04 MEETING WITH RATHMULLAN BUSINESS PEOPLE REGARDING POTATO STORE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pringle:-

“Will the Director of Community and Enterprise meet with the group of Rathmullan business people to discuss their plans for the potato store in the town.”

Clr. Pringle was informed that as members would be aware, Rathmullan was included in the Town and Village Renewal Programme (2000-2006), as set out in the “Strategic

Framework Document for Town and Village Renewal in County Donegal, 2000-2006”, approved by members of the Council, and the Department of Environment and Local Government in 2002. Rathmullan was scheduled for an environmental improvement scheme in 2005, with the first phase of public consultation and a substantial amount of the design work completed to date. It was envisaged that the remaining design work would be completed in the coming weeks, with a view to holding the second phase of public consultation before the end of 2004, thus ensuring that the scheme would be completed on schedule in 2005.

With specific reference to the Potato store in Rathmullan, the Council intended to proceed with the demolition of the Potato store, in conjunction with the environmental improvement scheme, and in accordance with a decision taken by the Council on the matter in 2001. This decision was taken by the Council when considering a development consisting of a marina and associated works proposed for Rathmullan which went through the planning process and was approved by the Council under Part X of the Local Government (Planning & Development) Regulations, 1994. The demolition of the Potato store was also the subject of discussions between representatives of the Rathmullan Village Renewal Group and members of the Milford Electoral Area Committee in 2003 and more recently the issue was raised at the Council Meeting in April, 2004 when the Council reaffirmed its decision when considering a motion regarding the need to proceed with an environmental improvement scheme in Rathmullan.

In addition to the details of the Council’s decision to demolish the Potato store and enhance that general area, the recent public consultation process held in Rathmullan on the 08th July 2004 strongly endorsed this decision with consensus being achieved to demolish the Potato store and carry out environmental works on the site and the adjoining areas.

C/488/04

REGIONAL AND LOCAL ROADS MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

“Will this Council increase the regional and local roads maintenance allocation in this years estimate to reflect the rising cost of materials, labour etc.”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that allocation of regional and local road maintenance funds would be a matter to be decided by the members at the Annual Budget Meeting. There had been significant pressure on these maintenance allocations in the last couple of years and it was hoped that it would be increased in 2005 to help the local areas in delivering a wide range of maintenance activities. The Council provided the Own Resource portion and the DOE provided the State Grant component of the maintenance funding.

C/489/04 UPGRADE WATER MAIN AT MEENAVOY

The following question was submitted by Clr. A. Bonner:-

“What plans has this Council to upgrade the water main at Meenavoy as residents have been left without water on numerous occasions because of frequent burst etc? This line needs immediate upgrading.”

Clr. A. Bonner was informed that the problems of water supply to residents at Meenavoy arose from frequent bursts on the Tievekmoy/Callan pipeline, which transmitted water to the area. It was proposed to replace one kilometre of this pipeline under the water conservation pipe replacement project. It was planned to undertake this work during the current year.

C/490/04 DELAY IN PAYING CONTRACTORS FOR BUILDING S.I. HOUSES.

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“Why is there such a long delay in paying contractors for the building of S.I. Houses?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that payments must be made for certified work with an agreed timescale. During construction phase, payments could be and were made quickly for work included in the tender. Work not forseen but adjudged necessary and items such as national price variation

increases had heretofore been included at the final account stage. Steps had been taken to shorten the time contractors might carry these costs. Retention monies were held by contract agreement, with rate reducing during 12 month maintenance period. Final payments were made when final account was approved and this 12 month period from completion had elapsed.

C/491/04 HOUSES READY FOR LETTING IN GWEEDORE

The following question was submitted by Clr. Pdraig Doherty:-

“When will the new Council houses be ready for letting in Gweedore?”

“Cen uair a bhéas na tithe Comhairle Contae réidh I bparóiste Ghaoth Dobhair”

Clr. Doherty was informed that the 13 houses at Cotteen would be completed by November, 2004, the houses at Meenanillar would be completed by February, 2005.

C/492/04 DELAY IN PROCESSING WATER CONNECTIONS

The following question was submitted by Clr. Alcorn:-

“Why is there such a delay in processing water connections by this County Council?”

Clr. Alcorn was informed that the majority of valid applications for water connections were processed and approved within a month. Delays could arise for a number of reasons, for example;

Submission of incomplete documentation (e.g. map, planning reference or letter of permission from private group water scheme omitted).

Development charges not paid

Bond required under planning permission not provided.

The handling of these applications had been decentralised during this year. Some backlog had arisen, but had not been dealt with.

C/493/04 TORY ISLAND “WATER TESTING”

The following question was submitted by Clr. Padraig O'Doherty:-

“When will the results of the Tory Island “water testing” be available and when will the Council start work on the new water scheme?”

Clr. Padraig O'Doherty was informed that drilling for groundwater on Tory Island took place in mid August 2004. Preliminary pump tests on these test wells took place towards the end of August 2004, with favourable results from a yield perspective. Water samples were taken during the preliminary pump testing and these have been sent for detailed chemical analysis. The results were expected back in the next two weeks. The consultants would then compile the results of the drilling, pump testing, and water chemical analysis into their report on the recommended way forward. This preliminary report was expected in October/November, 2004.

C/494/04

GORTAHORK SEWERAGE SCHEME

The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Domhnaill:-

“Why is Donegal County Council not giving the proper priority to the Gortahork Sewerage Scheme?”

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that Water Services Schemes were generally advanced on a priority basis as agreed by the Elected members of Donegal County Council and subject to the availability of funding under an appropriate funding programme. The principal current funding programmes for sewerage schemes were the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 (Major Schemes, Serviced Land Initiative, Water Conservation, Rural Towns and Villages Initiative) and the Rural Water Programme (Small Schemes Programme etc). All of these programmes required some counterpart funding from the Council's own resources.

The Assessment of Needs was the document which informed the prioritisation of schemes on the WSIP and the Small Schemes Programme. Gortahork Sewerage Scheme was

currently not listed on the WSIP. This programme was funded by the Department with reference to the Government's obligations under the Urban Waste Treatment Directive which required that conurbations with a population equivalent greater than 2000 should have secondary wastewater treatment in place by December, 2005.

In the Assessment of Needs 2003, the scheme was the fourth wastewater priority in Glenties Electoral Area and the 24th wastewater priority county-wide. As a result the scheme was listed on the current Reserve Small Capital Schemes list as the second priority in the Glenties Electoral Area. In this context it was envisaged that no design or improvement works on Gortahork Sewerage Scheme would take place for at least two years.

C/495/04 NEW PUBLIC LIGHTING PROGRAMME

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“When will the new Public Lighting Programme be drawn up and what will be the time scale of its implementation”

Clr. Slowey was informed that the new 3 year Public Lighting Programme was currently being drawn up with the National Roads element nearing completion. The Roads Department was utilising the latest GIS system to conduct an extensive survey of the existing and required stock of Public Lighting (this would also include running costs). The Roads Department intended to assign a dedicated technician/engineer to finish the survey with a new programme proposed to be ready for March of next year. It was intended that this would be a 3 year programme and the funding requirements would be included in Budget 2005 for consideration by the elected members.

C/496/04 FOOTPATH FROM ARD CROINE TO MAIN STREET, DUNGLOE

The following question was submitted by Clr. E. Bonner:-

“When will Donegal County Council provide a footpath from Ard Croine to the Main Street, Dungloe.?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that during 2003 the Glenties elected members agreed to a comprehensive Footpath

Priority List for the Glenties Electoral Area. At present, schemes 1 to 10 had received part of their required funding. Scheme number 11 was the Quay Road between the old school and Pat Nora Gallagher's House (Dungloe), which included part of Ard Coine-Main Street. It should be noted that the section from the old school to the Main Street was not included on the current priority list. This section of footpath would involve property acquisition and would require substantial additional funding.

C/497/04 CRASH BARRIER ON N56 AND ERECTION OF SIGNS ON APPROACH BEND FROM DUNGLOE DIRECTION
The following question was submitted by Clr. E. Bonner:-

“When will the crash barrier on the N56 at the left of Loughanure be reinstated and will warning signs be erected on the approach to bend from Dungloe direction.?”

Clr. E. Bonner was informed that in recent weeks a suite of chevron signs had been erected on the bend on the approach from the Dungloe side. There was no crash barrier at this specific location. The Council would re-examine the benefit of installing a crash barrier at this location again with regards to the balance between vehicles running off the road onto the adjacent open lands versus them impacting a metal barrier.

During 2002 crash barriers were erected at other locations in Loughanure.

In addition, surface dressing operations were scheduled at this location shortly.

C/498/04 SAFETY BARRIER ALONG LOCH SALT
The following question was submitted by Clr. O'Domhnaill:-

“What progress has Donegal County Council made in ensuring a safety barrier is erected along Lough Salt?”

Clr. O'Domhnaill was informed that Road Design Engineering staff had visited Lough Salt and were currently producing a report which considered different options to improve driving conditions at this location.

The options being considered included not only the erection of a safety barrier, but also lining and signing works which would help define the road and warn motorists of approaching hazards, as well as improved drainage and access to parking areas.

Once complete, the recommended option would be brought to the Electoral Area Committee, and funding would be sought to implement the works.

C/499/04 CHECKING SUITABILITY AND CHARACTER OF STAFF MEMBER BEFORE APPOINTMENT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Slowey:-

“What checks are carried out by Donegal County Council to ascertain the suitability and character of a staff member before appointment or promotion?”

Clr. Slowey was informed that the procedure followed to ascertain the suitability and character of a staff member prior to their appointment or promotion was as follows:-

Each applicant for appointment as a new staff member or promotion for in case of existing members of staff, was required to submit the names of two individuals who could be contacted by the Council in order to provide a reference for the applicant concerned. It was a requirement that the individuals named were not related to the applicant and it was normal practice that they would have had contact with the applicant through an employment situation.

When a recommendation was received relating to the appointment or promotion of a staff member, the Council wrote to the referees using a standard format seeking a reference for the applicant. The reply would include the recommendation from the referee with regard to the suitability of the applicant for the post concerned and also a judgement from the referee in relation to the overall character of the applicant.

Subject to favourable references, and a medical report from the Council's GP, the Council would proceed with the appointment or promotion of the staff member.

C/500/04 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SCHEME IN INISHOWEN

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What is the current position regarding the progress on an affordable housing scheme in Inishowen?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that Donegal County Council and Buncrana Town Council were holding an information evening in Buncrana in October, with a view to advising prospective applicants of the terms of the scheme, eligibility, and so forth and to invite expressions of interest in order to ascertain the level of demand for the scheme in Buncrana. It was envisaged that the houses would be provided using Part V of the Planning & Development legislation. It was also intended to expand the scheme thereafter to other parts of Inishowen and the county.

C/501/04 SEWERAGE SCHEME FOR BRIDGEND AND BURNFOOT

The following question was submitted by Clr. Conaghan:-

“What plans have the Council to progress a sewerage scheme for the villages of Bridgend and Burnfoot?”

Clr. Conaghan was informed that Bridgend Sewerage Scheme was currently listed on the Department of Environment Heritage and Local Governments Water Services Investment Programme 2004-2006 as a Serviced Land Initiative Scheme. Burnfoot Sewerage Scheme was currently not listed on any funded programme and was not part of the scope of the Bridgend Scheme at the time of application. Notwithstanding this, the consultants for Bridgend were asked to look at the future servicing of Burnfoot and this was reflected in the preliminary report which had been received. The general thrust of the preliminary report was for the treatment works to be centralised at one location with pumping stations located at appropriate collection points. Although Bridgend was a part-funded scheme on the SLI Programme, counterpart funding from developers must be available for the scheme to progress. This was not the case at present. Burnfoot was currently not on any funded or part funded programme. Similarly, however if funding was available from developers improvement works could be possible. In summary, unless there was significant development demand that would ensure

the financial viability of a scheme for either or both towns further progress would be difficult.

C/502/04 TRUE SUB AQUA CLUB – LEASE OF OLD FIRE STATION IN CARNDONAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“In relation to an application by True North Sub Aqua club in Inishowen to lease the old fire station in Carndonagh, what input do elected representatives have into the decision making process as to whether Council assets like the old fire station are sold or leased.”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that the Council had not finalised its proposals for the old Carndonagh Fire Station at this stage.

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government’s funding arrangement for the newly constructed Fire Station included the recoupment of the asset value of the old fire station by way of disposal of the asset or alternatively by the recoupment of the market value to the fire station building programme.

On a broader context the members would be aware that the Council was endeavouring to raise capital through the sale of assets in order to reduce the capital borrowing, following the construction of the five Public Service Centres and phase 1 renovation of Headquarters and also with the view to the completion of the capital building programme with the construction of a Public Services Centre in Ballybofey and Phase II renovation of the County House Headquarters. Any proposal to dispose of assets would, in due course come before the members for approval.

C/503/04 CIVIC AMENITY SITE IN CARNDONAGH

The following question was submitted by Clr. MacLochlainn:-

“Can Donegal County Council arrange to have the civic amenity site at Carndonagh opened six days a week to facilitate the increasing public demand for the facility?”

Clr. MacLochlainn was informed that the success and popularity of the civic amenity site in Carndonagh was gratifying in many respects. Interest in recycling was growing rapidly and was encouraged by the Council's waste awareness campaign. Funding provided in the 2004 Budget did not provide for six day operation, but staffing levels and opening hours could be reviewed. The future balance of recycling between bring banks/CA sites and kerbside collection would be reconsidered in the review of the Council's Waste Management Plan which was now underway. The members would have an opportunity to assign financial resources to three additional civic amenity sites in 2005, including the extent of opening hours, in the context of the Budget for 2005.

C/504/04 PROGRESS/TIME SCALE FOR LOCAL AREA PLANS IN INISHOWEN

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“What is the progress/time-scale for local area plans in the Inishowen Electoral Area.”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that Local Area Plans had been prepared for Muff adopted March, 2004, Burnfoot adopted 31st May 2004 and Bridgend adopted 31st May, 2004 in the Inishowen Electoral Area. a Local Area Plan for Killea had been prepared and the Manager's Report on material alterations had been issued to members, this week (Monday 27th September). It was proposed that members would then consider the report in November. All the above plans had been funded through the County Council led Task Force and the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation 2000-2004 Peace II process. No other Local Area Plans were proposed to be stated in the Inishowen Electoral Area this year.

The Local Area Planning Programme for each Electoral Area was agreed by members some time ago. The Inishowen Area had been subject of 4 Local Area Plans, more than any other area.

With the new County Development Plan currently under preparation, it was suggested that the members working group on the Development Plan, consider the Local Plan Programme, in order to re-evaluate the priorities within and between each Electoral Area.

C/505/04 MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME FOR PIERS AND HARBOURS

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGuinness:-

“Will the Council provide funding and set up a maintenance programme for piers and harbours in the county?”

Clr. McGuinness was informed that a maintenance programme was presently being drawn up for all piers and slipways. This programme would be available for consideration by the Councillors in the 2005 Budget.

C/506/04 UPGRADING OF FOOTPATH ON THE CONWALL ROAD BETWEEN THE O'DONNELL PARK AND CONWALL GRAVEYARD IN LETTERKENNY

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Has the Council allocated any monies for the upgrading of the existing footpath on the Conwal Road between the O'Donnell Park and Conwal Graveyard in Letterkenny?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that the Letterkenny elected members had agreed a priority list for footpaths in the Letterkenny area. This footpath was placed at number 7 on the list and would not be reached under the current 2004 footpath programme. The Budget 2005 process would determine if this footpath programme continued in 2005. In addition, there was potential for footpaths to be constructed as part of future developments in this area.

C/507/04 LIFFORD TO RAPHOE ROAD FROM MURLOG TO BALLINDRAIT VILLAGE

The following question was submitted by Clr. McDaid:-

“Will the Council make available funding for the widening and strengthening of the Lifford to Raphoe Road from Murlog Chapel to Ballindrait Village in light of the increased volume of heavy vehicle traffic using that road?”

Clr. McDaid was informed that the selection of roads for prioritisation for funding under EU Co-Financed would be considered by the members on 27th September, 2004.

Currently, this road was among all regional roads being considered – however, the stretch being considered was at Coolaghey which was between Ballindrait and Raphoe. It was important to note that the new N14 Realignment Scheme could result in impacts to the road near Murlog.

C/508/04 TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT DRUMANY JUNCTION

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harte:-

“Will the Council ask the NRA to consider putting traffic lights at the Drumany Junction on the Ballybofey Road?”

Clr. Harte was informed that this junction would be examined to determine if it met the warrants for traffic lights. If it met the warrants, the matter would be advanced further with the NRA.

C/509/04 PROGRESS AT LURGYBRACK SCHOOL

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“What progress has been made at Lurgybrack School since they have come back from their summer holidays?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that a meeting of the engineering staff and Management Committee took place in late August and various options were discussed. The conclusion was that the Council staff would examine further the option of a parking area being provided within the school property. This had now been progressed to a stage that a further meeting of the Management Committee and Council staff would be required in the next few weeks.

C/510/04 PROVISION OF FOOTPATH FROM DEMENSE RAPHOW (MEADOW HILL)

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“What efforts have been made to provide a footpath from Demense Raphoe (Meadow Hill) into town in view of the new housing development in that area?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that the planning permission for the mentioned housing development had a condition requiring the construction of a footpath for part of the way

towards Raphoe town centre. The Letterkenny elected members had agreed a priority list for footpaths in the Letterkenny area. However, this footpath was not on the priority list at this time.

C/511/04 CROSS BORDER FUNDING FOR LIFFORD DERRY ROAD VIA ST. JOHNSTON

The following question was submitted by Clr. Crawford:-

“Has Cross Border funding been sought for road improvements to the Lifford Derry Road via St. Johnston?”

Clr. Crawford was informed that there had been no cross border funding applied specifically for this road. However, this road had been kept under consideration for inclusion in cross border funding applications. It would continue to be included in any future submissions assuming that it satisfied any specified selection criteria. The main road leading to this road from the border (i.e. A5/N14 link) had received InterReg funding.

C/512/04 CIVIC AMENITY FACILITY IN LETTERKENNY

The following question was submitted by Clr. Harte:-

“When do the Council expect the Civic Amenity facility to be in place in Letterkenny?”

Clr. Harte was informed that there were ongoing discussions with the Letterkenny General Hospital Management in relation to a site for Civic Amenity facility on lands owned by the NWHB. The next meeting was scheduled for October, 13th at which it was hoped to finalise matters. An application for planning permission could then be prepared. The facility could be available for public use mid 2005, provided the negotiations, planning application and construction ran smoothly.

C/513/04 UPDATE ON VILLAGE AND TOWN RENEWAL SCHEMES

The following question was submitted by Clr. Larkin:-

“May the Council be furnished with an update on all village and town renewal schemes?”

Clr. Larkin was informed that over the last number of years, there had been significant investment in the whole area of town and village renewal in county Donegal, under the various programmes which were detailed below. The present programmes which were part of the Strategic Framework for the Urban and Village Renewal Programme in County Donegal 2000-2006, as adopted by members of the Council in 2002, would see further investment of approximately €8m before the end of 2006.

As the summary table indicated, over €6.5m had been invested in town and village renewal since 2000. The funding for the programme was sourced from the Council’s own resources and a number of external sources such as BMW Operational Programme, IFI, Peace II, An Roinn Gnothai, Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta. The role of other Council services such as Roads & Transportation, Water, Environment & Emergency Services, must also be acknowledged for the important role they play in providing funding, technical assistance and in some cases delivering the agreed work programmes in the Towns and Villages. See Appendix 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.

C/514/04 OPERATION OF SPC’S

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Would the Council give an outline of the operation of SPC’s and how they can be developed to best serve the people of Donegal?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that the Local Government Act, 2001, provided for the establishment by each County Council of a number of Strategic Policy Committees to assist the full Council in the formulation, development and review of policy. Each Committee comprised of a majority of elected members, together with a number of nominees from each of the sectors as represented by the pillars of the national partnership process. The Chairs of each SPC,

together with the Cathaoirleach, formed the Corporate Policy Group.

Five such Committees had been established by Donegal County Council and a draft scheme for the membership of each Committee was currently being prepared for approval by the members.

In 2003, the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government commissioned a review of the operation of the SPC's across the local government system. A copy of this report had recently been circulated to each member of the Council. Arising from this, the Corporate Policy Group at its July meeting requesting the County Manager to draft a set of proposals for the systematisation and streamlining of the operation of the SPC's in Donegal County Council. The attached report was discussed and approved by the CPG at its September Meeting.

Discussions were now taking place between each Director and the SPC Chairs on the preparation of a work programme for each SPC. When this was completed, a report would be brought to the full Council for its consideration.

C/515/04 MEETING WITH SENATORS, TD's, MINISTERS AND MEPS REGARDING MATTERS AFFECTING DONEGAL.

The following question was submitted by Clr. McGarvey:-

“Would it be beneficial to this Council to meet with our Senators, TD's, Ministers and MEP's at least four times per year to advise on the required funding and other related matters that adversely affected Donegal over the years?”

Clr. McGarvey was informed that the dual mandate, whereby Oireachtas members could also be members of a local authority, was abolished with effect from June, 2004. In this context, the Minister had made Regulations to provide for effective continuing relationships between local Oireachtas members and the local authority. The Regulations provide, inter alia, that the County Manager and the Cathaoirleach should arrange to meet collectively at least once a year with the Oireachtas members to facilitate good communications and to review developments.

In the case of Donegal County Council, it was intended to hold regular meetings with the Oireachtas members and the

County Manager had recently written to local TDs and Senators, with a view to setting up the first such meeting within the next four to six weeks.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

